UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/605/Add.5
5 December 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 97 (e)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/51/605, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 19th and 38th meetings, on 29 October and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.19 and 38).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.6 AND L.33

2. At the 19th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.6) entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

"Noting with satisfaction that most of the States Members of the United Nations and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and inviting States that are not Parties to the Convention to take appropriate action to that end,

"Noting that the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened from 8 to 19 July 1996 in Geneva, and that at that session the Conference of the Parties adopted a series of substantive decisions,

"Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration which commanded majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference,

"Considering the important scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and considering also its second assessment report to be the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment now available of the scientific and technical information regarding global climate change,

"Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant - and often adverse - impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

"Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

"Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

"Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997,

"Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany, is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

"Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 9, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the

biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference might need to convene in that period,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/115,

"1. Welcomes the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997;

"2. Also welcomes the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997;

"3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 10, to review the arrangements mentioned in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report upon the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

"4. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, as well as to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention;

"5. Urges Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

"6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind' and to undertake thereat the consideration of the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/115."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.33), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.6.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.33 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Marshall Islands made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.33, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.6 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] and inviting States that are not Parties to take appropriate action to that end,

Welcoming the achievements of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was convened at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996, and noting that the Conference of the Parties at its second session adopted by consensus a series of substantive decisions,[2]

Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note, without formal adoption, of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration which received majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference, which, inter alia, called for acceleration of negotiations on the text of a legally binding protocol or another legal instrument to be completed in due time for adoption at the third session of the Conference of the Parties, as mentioned in the Geneva Declaration,

Taking note with appreciation of the scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and also

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[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I).

[2] See FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

taking note of its second assessment report as the most comprehensive assessment available to date of the issues related to global climate change,

Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant and often adverse impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate[3] process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997,[4]

Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 9, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period, and noting that those arrangements should be made without prejudice to the outcome of the review referred to in paragraph 3 of the present resolution,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/115,[5]

1. Notes the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional

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[3] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

[4] FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1, decision 1/CP.2.

[5] A/51/484.

arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997;[6]

2. Also notes the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997;[7]

3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 50/115, paragraph 10, to review the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report on the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

4. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, and to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention;[8]

5. Calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay in full and in a timely manner for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties,[9] the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention, envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and, pending the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997, to report on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and to consider at that session the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/115.

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[6] Ibid., paras. 14-18.

[7] Ibid., para. 9.

[8] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

[9] Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex II.